

**1998**

<b>Submission from an Individual</b>	<b>Submission from a Council</b>
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**Submission from an Individual****1. William Laurence - Gosford City Council**  
**Footpath Construction**

One of the major causes of claims against Local Government is uneven footpath surfaces, resulting from either tree roots or settlement of the ground beneath the footpath.

Maintenance costs and claims costs run into millions of dollars per annum and any idea which can reduce the incidence of damage to the footpaths and therefore the number of claims incurred will have substantial long-term benefit to Councils.

In his submission, William Laurence has put forward a submission on utilisation of reinforced steel and dowels in the construction of concrete footpaths. The added cost of including reinforcing in the footpath is approximately \$4.00/m<sup>2</sup> but the potential savings in maintenance and claims would far outweigh that cost.

Gosford City Council has adopted the specification as a risk management strategy.

**2. Bill Felice - Blacktown City Council**  
**Hydraulic Goalpost Handling System**

Council controls and maintains a large number of sporting fields which require the erection of goalposts at the beginning of each season. The difficulties associated with this task would be well known to all Councils in this state.

Blacktown City Council's Senior Workshop Supervisor, Bill Felice came up with the idea of using a standard 3-point linkage tractor forklift attachment with a rotating post clamp bar in place of forks on the carriage to secure the goalposts during the insertion/withdrawal and handling procedures.

The cost of the project was \$7,700 which is far less than the cost to Council in lost time and workers compensation payments for one worker injured using the previous method of post handling.

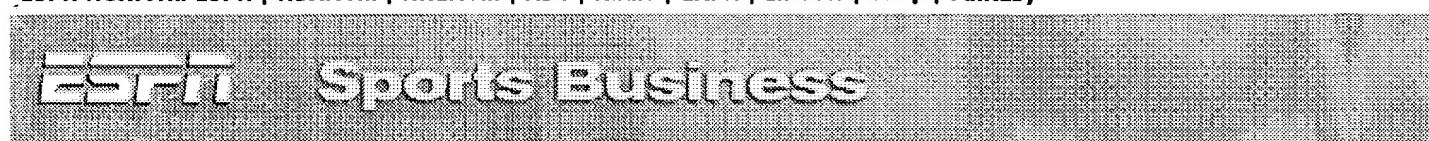
**3. Peter Manoukian - Parramatta City Council**  
**Ideas to Improve Work Area Safety**

The law of negligence revolves around a duty of care and Courts ask the question as to what a reasonable person would have done in the circumstances to prevent injury or damage to property.



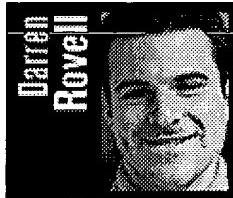
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**Wednesday, November 20**  
 Updated: November 26, 8:07 PM ET

# The ultimate form of fan participation



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After hearing that Duke's football team had snapped its 23-game losing streak with a 23-16, season-opening victory over East Carolina, Neil Gilman sat by his phone and waited for the call.

"Congratulations on the big win," Gilman told Woody Fish, Duke's director of football operations, after receiving the call he had been expecting. "Can I get you fixed up for next week?"

Tearing down the goalposts has been a time honored tradition for college football fans after a team pulls off an improbable comeback or long-awaited victory, but the celebratory ritual does not come without a cost. And Gilman, president of Gilman Gear, is among sports equipment manufacturers who have earned a good living on supply new goalposts over the years.

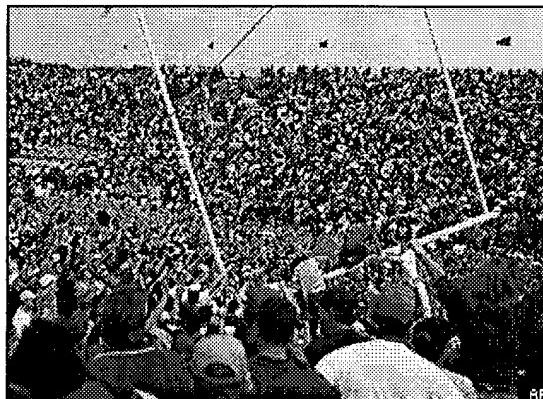
"I keep a real sharp eye on where goalposts go down," said Gilman, who notes that the goalpost industry grosses more than \$1 million annually. "I'm always rooting for the underdog."

Business has been good for Gilman this season. His company has replaced goalposts at five schools, including at University of Louisville's Cardinal Stadium, University of Tulsa's Skelly Stadium and, most recently, at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, where University of Iowa's fans destroyed a goalpost after the Hawkeyes clinched a share of the Big Ten title by beating the University of Minnesota.

"The goalpost is a symbol," Gilman said. "A football field is not a football field without the goalposts and it's almost sacred in that respect."

That's one of the reasons why rebel-minded students take such joy in destroying them after their school's team beats a nationally-ranked opponent, clinches a conference championship or ends an extended losing streak.

Gilman's goalposts -- fully loaded with wind-indicators and yellow glow paint -- cost \$5,600 apiece. That's comparable to competitors such as Triman Tele-Goal, which has supplied aluminum posts to the University of Miami, University of Tennessee, Washington State and Indiana University, among others.



**Tearing down the goalposts is the ultimate form of fan participation in college football.**



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Some schools see the goalpost as the cost of a big win.

Keith Burns, head coach at Tulsa, told students at a bonfire the night before the Golden Hurricanes snapped a 17-game losing

streak that he would pay for new goalposts if they became casualties of a victory celebration. After Tulsa beat UTEP, Golden Hurricanes fans dismantled a goalpost and deposited it in four pieces on the grassy area in front of the school's library. The school, though, never asked Burns to open his checkbook.

"Luckily, our facilities people stripped off the padding before the students could take it," Marc Tuttle, the school's assistant athletics director for operations, said with a laugh.

The University of Mississippi proved resourceful after a goalpost was successfully pulled from the ground following Ole Miss' 17-14 victory over No. 8 University of Florida on Oct. 5. Fans, undeterred when police used pepper spray to quell the crowd, extricated the goalpost and carried it from Vaught-Hemingway Stadium to the school's campus, where it was later retrieved. Although it was torn in two and had signatures all over it, the university was without a backup and had to weld the goalpost back together so it could be used the following weekend when the Rebels played Arkansas State.

After a new goalpost arrived, the Ole Miss Loyalty Foundation sold 130 six-inch strips of the goal, accompanied by a plaque, to fans for \$100 each. The foundation was able to cover the cost of the new goalpost, buy a backup and still have more than \$4,000 left over, according to Brad Teague, the associate director of the foundation.

That Iowa's fans ripped down a goalpost in the Metrodome last week was a break from tradition. It is believed the last time an opposing team tore down a goalpost was when students at the University of California tore down a goalpost at Stanford after losing the 100th edition of the "Big Game" in 1997.

"This was not on anyone's radar," said Bill Lester, the executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, which owns and manages the Metrodome. "I guess you have to be from Iowa to attempt to take an 18-foot pole through revolving doors."

The goalpost eventually ended up on the Metrodome field after fans attempted to remove it through the concourse level.

Lester said he is billing the University of Iowa for a new goalpost, and Hawkeyes athletics director Bob Bowlsby said the school will accept the \$5,000 charge. "It's a longstanding tradition and our fans haven't done that in a while," Bowlsby said.

It's not because Iowa hasn't pulled off any upsets. It's that the goalposts at Kinnick Stadium have hinges and when a game is over school officials use extended sticks to fold over the uprights. Other schools also have taken preventive measures.

**Make 'em like this**  
NCAA rules stipulate there must be a distance of 18 feet, 6 inches between the uprights of a goal, and its posts must extend at least 20 feet into the air from a crossbar that is 10 feet above the ground, said Scott Deitch, staff liaison to the NCAA's Football Rules Committee. The NCAA also requires schools to have a portable goalpost available in the event that a goal is taken down or falls during a game.

**Now weight a minute**

No goalposts came down this past week when Texas Tech beat the University of Texas. Although the prohibition of fans on the stadium's turf didn't hold up in the celebration, the goal posts did since school officials dismantled them before students could get to them. Last year the plan was not in place when Texas Tech shut out Texas A&M and the south goalpost was destroyed. Their opponent has used lithium grease to keep the students from climbing up on the structure in an attempt to shake it down.

Schools like Arizona, Boston College, Northwestern, Notre Dame and Wisconsin have invested \$30,000 for a pair for "indestructible" goal posts from Chicago-based Merchants

Environmental Industries. The piping company has been manufacturing goalposts for the past 12 years and guarantees their steel goals won't fall from shear human force alone. Two years ago, Merchants Environmental gave Kansas State two new goalposts after one fell following a victory over Nebraska.

"All bets are off when students go out and use tools to get it down," said Robert Allen, president of Merchant Environmental. "The only time there's a problem is when kids use television cable, chains or ropes. That usually happens after 20 to 30 minutes, when a group becomes a mob, they come up with an idea and start to work in unison."

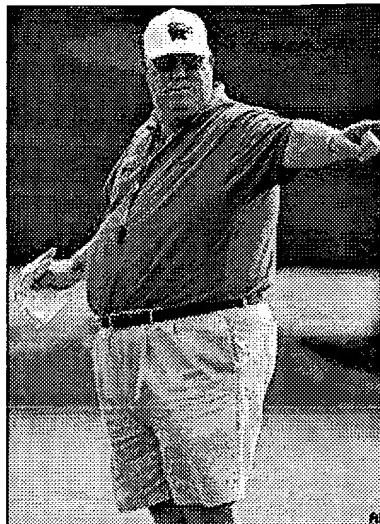
It's not always about the monetary loss. Much of the concern over a post-game celebration involving goalposts is about safety.

"Schools don't want them to fall," said Bill Szarleotta, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue who had his students design their version of an indestructible goalpost last year. "As more and more goal posts go down, more people are going to get hurt and the athletic departments won't be able to afford the insurance."

Szarleotta said his company will be sending two goal post designs -- which stand on two poles instead of one -- to Purdue officials, who will decide whether the school will pursue patents for future rights to sell the goalposts.

"We're very concerned about the safety of the fans around a goal post, especially when it snaps," said Marty Sargent, an associate athletics director at Oklahoma State, where fans tore down a goalpost after the Cowboys defeated Nebraska, 24-21, on Oct. 19. "There's a lot of sharp edges and it's easy for people to get cut or break a leg in the pileup. It's a Catch-22 in that you want the fans to enjoy the moment, but you also want to prevent injuries."

In 1983, a woman was critically injured in the Harvard-Yale post-game celebration at



**Friedgen will start taking off the weight when the season ends.**

Maryland football coach Ralph Friedgen has been focusing so much on the field (and rightly so), that his plan to lose 100 pounds have taken a back seat for now.

After early season losses against Notre Dame and Florida State, the Terrapins have racked up eight wins in a row and are on track to finish the season 11-2. Before the season, boosters approached the 355-pound coach and offered to donate \$1,000 for every pound he lost to the Gossett Football Team House, which includes the locker rooms and other facilities. Through Nov. 13, Friedgen had lost 37 pounds and he has until April 1 to lose 63 more.

"My focus is on winning games, not losing weight," Friedgen said. "When the season gets over, I will re-focus on the fact that I have been given the opportunity to make money for this program and I will work on achieving my goal, which is to lose 100 pounds and make \$100,000 for the program."

*- Darren Rovell*

Yale when the goalpost hit her in the head. A similar incident happened in 1998, when a student was injured celebrating Oregon State's victory over Oregon in the rivalry dubbed the Civil War.

Anticipating when fans may feel compelled to tear down the goalposts helped the University of Louisville be prepared for the eventuality of an upset of Florida State, which brought a No. 4 ranking into the game earlier this season.

The school didn't have a backup goal and knew if the team beat the Seminoles and the goalposts came down that Thursday night, they wouldn't be ready for the state's biggest high school game that was to be played at Cardinal Stadium the next night. Louisville defeated Florida State and thanks to their foresight, a backup was on hand and the high school game was played as scheduled.

### Burking up the wrong tree

Although there has been anonymous dissent from members of Augusta National over their male-only members policy, it's tough to find any public discord among the more than 150 member groups that make up the National Council of Women's Organizations over the non-profit's devotion in prompting the club to admit a woman member before next year's Masters.

In an ESPN.com survey, in which 14 percent of NCOW members participated, 22 of the 155 member organizations said they strongly supported NCOW's position and the resources that the organization has devoted to the controversy. "The press coverage could stop right now and I'd be OK with it," said NCOW president Martha Burk, who claims she has devoted only 15 percent of her time to Augusta since mid-June.

Burk now hopes to run a consumer education program detailing who are the sponsors of the PGA Tour and the Masters, what they sell and how they market their products to women. If there's one organization she wants to put pressure on, it would be IBM.



**Martha Burk wants women members at Augusta National.**

"That was the one sponsor that kind of stuck it in our face," Burk said. "They were still willing to continue to sponsor the Masters until (Augusta National Golf Club chairman) Hootie (Johnson) made it look like he fired all of them."

Burk said the organization, which has an operating budget of about \$1 million, has received a few donations since the debate turned public, but the total is not a significant amount. "I'm not in this for the money," Burk said. "That's not to say if a nice check came in that would really get us over the hump and allow us to do some things, we wouldn't take it."

### Be your own caddy

The golf cart at the fancy club has the Global Positioning System for golfers to measure how far their ball is from the pin. Now golfers who choose to walk the course or don't attend the swankiest of establishments can calculate their distance to any hole.

LinksPoint Inc., a mobile information systems company, has created software it calls Star Caddy that, when installed into a personal digital assistant with a GPS at a cost of about \$200, allows golfers to calculate their distance to the hole and simulate shots in order to find the best lie. The program, which also gives the golfer the ability to score and save rounds, costs \$49.95. LinksPoint also has mapped out 3,000 courses and will map out any one of the 17,000 courses in North America for \$19.95 each. The average

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## IN THE NEWS

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**By Beth Rosenberg**  
**The NCAA News**

For all the positive traditions associated with intercollegiate athletics, there are others that have administrators concerned for the welfare and safety of their student-athletes, students and fans.

In recent years, there have been more and more incidents of fans being injured after football games because they stormed the field to celebrate a victory. In their fervor, these mobs often tear down goal posts, which can add danger to an already hazardous situation.

Last year, 150 representatives from intercollegiate athletics met in Dallas to convene a Sportsmanship and Fan Behavior Summit, in part to address these issues. While it was noted that this type of fan behavior seemed to be on the upswing, those in attendance concluded that there were no easy answers to the problem and it was something that needed ongoing review from the NCAA national office, conferences and individual institutions.

Taking it a step further, the Division 1 Football Issues Committee is suggesting that institutions look at collapsible goal posts as a means to at least alleviate some of the injuries that can occur from such behavior.

"We would encourage all institutions to take a look at the possibility of installing these types of collapsible goal posts in the interest of safety," said committee Chair Vince Dooley, director of athletics at the University of Georgia. "What we worry about is that it may take something tragic to really move people to give it the

" Our goal posts are made of steel; generally they're aluminum," Nelson said. "Because of the properties of metal, steel doesn't snap. If you ever saw people tear down the goal posts, they'd usually be jumping on them for a bit and then they snap and that's where the problem comes in. They snap and people get hurt."

Dooley said his committee's concern with "indestructible" goal posts are that if fans are told they can not be torn down, too many will work hard to prove the description wrong. "There was some concern that it's almost like a challenge," he said.

MEI has installed its goal posts at about 24 schools throughout the country, such as the University of Arizona, the University of Notre Dame, Iowa State University and Boston College. Nelson said their goal posts have come down only once - at Kansas State University a couple of years ago when fans took cables, tied them to the top of the posts and worked for about an hour to bring them down.

Neil Gilman, president of Connecticut-based Gilman Gear, said his company has been manufacturing hinged goal posts since the fall of 2002.

" The impetus was the incidents of vandalism and violence after football games," he said. "We had to replace many goal posts that were torn down during the course of the season and schools were frustrated about having to buy new ones every time. So we looked for options that would discourage students from rushing the field in the first place."

Gilman said his hinged posts take about 20 seconds to come down.

A self-described football fan, former player and official, Snider said he's always liked building things and was inspired to create a better goal post after a West Virginia University football game.

" It's kind of ugly as a fan to see these possible injuries occurring," he said. "This (new goal post) is much safer, not only for the students, but also for the police officers and the facilities personnel."

Snider is talking with officials at Clemson University, which may be the first institution in the nation to install these new goal posts.

Katie Hill, senior associate athletics director at Clemson, said Snider has presented his design to her and other administrators and is planning to return this month with some suggested changes.

Whether Clemson goes with Snider's design or buys hinged posts from Gilman Gear, Hill said something new would definitely be in place before the start of next season.

" We had thought that some of the educational campaigns, some alcohol restrictions that we had put in place on our campus and things like that would be enough to remove the necessity for it," she said. "We were wrong."

Clemson fans have a long tradition of running onto the field after the game, Hill said. It's part of the cultural framework of the school and something that won't likely change.

" We just want to make the goal posts a non-issue," she said, noting fans have been injured when goal posts have come down at Clemson.

kind of attention it needs.

"I think it's a very serious issue - a sportsmanship and safety issue - and I think there's a serious problem in intercollegiate athletics," he said.

#### **Goal post technology**

Goal posts that either can be collapsed or are considered indestructible have been around for more than a decade, but more schools have looked at the new technology in the past few years.

The University of Iowa is believed to be the first school to use collapsible goal posts, said Damian Simcox, director of athletics facilities for the university. He said Iowa developed the technology about 12 years ago because the goal posts had been torn down several games in a row and administrators wanted to stop the practice.

Simcox said it takes about 10 to 15 seconds for the goal posts to collapse safely. Since they've been installed at Iowa, the goal posts have never been torn down. Iowa, he said, has shared its secret with many other schools seeking similar solutions.

Steve Protratz, a senior mechanical engineer at Washington State University, said his school also came up with its own design for new goal posts. Washington State uses steel goal posts, held in the ground with concrete. Protratz said the posts have been up for about 10 years and have never come down - even though students have tried to bring them to the ground.

Mark Nelson, general superintendent of Chicago-based Merchant's Environmental Industries, Inc., said his company has produced steel goal posts considered indestructible since about 1992. Northwestern University, he said, had asked the company to develop goal posts that would stand up to fans after the posts were torn down at a game and a student was hurt.

The hinge, he said, is not exposed and can't be easily manipulated by fans. The hinged posts are in place at the University of Kansas and at the University of Utah, he said, and other schools and conferences have contacted him about possible installations.

Though collapsible, steel or hinged posts are more expensive than traditional goal posts, which cost about \$5,000. Athletics officials say it's well worth the price.

"Almost every year, after winning a particular game, we had fans come onto the field and tear down the goal posts," said Michael O'Brien, director of athletics at the University of Toledo and a member of the Division 1 Football Issues Committee. O'Brien noted that steel goal posts will be installed at his school before spring practice begins this year.

"It was simply time to see what we could do security-wise and then in turn install the permanent goal posts, because financially it simply wasn't making any sense, either," he said.

#### **The next generation of goal posts**

As with any product, there's always someone looking to improve upon what's on the market, and goal posts are no exception.

James Snider, the owner of a West Virginia construction company, is working on a new goal post that he says can come down in five or six seconds with the press of a button from a remote location. This design, he said, keeps security personnel out of harm's way. Snider, who did not want to provide intricate details of his design while the full patent is pending, has received a provisional patent for his invention. He is forming a company called Powered Dynamic Goals to manufacture and install these posts.

"We've got a duty to our personnel to not only get them down so everyone else can be safe, but so that they can be safe, too."

Dooley said the Football Issues Committee would continue to address not only goal posts but also fan behavior that leads to violent incidents.

"It's something that needs to be constantly addressed," he said.

O'Brien agreed that the committee needs to continue reviewing the situation at college campuses around the country.

"There's no question that the committee will (continue to monitor the situation) because obviously we talk about the goal posts, but it's also an issue of sportsmanship and fan behavior," he said. "It's not something that we meet on once a year and forget about until there's an incident."

**The NCAA News. March 1, 2004 .  
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## **Football Archive**

### **Collapsible goal posts make debut at KU**

By David Mitchell, Sports Writer

Sunday, October 19, 2003

Kansas University football fans should savor the memory of tearing down both goal posts and dumping them in Potter Lake after the Jayhawks defeated Missouri, 35-14, Sept. 27.

Such a celebration might never happen again.

a d v e r t i s e m e n t

KU's new collapsible goal posts were disassembled in seconds after the Jayhawks defeated Baylor, 28-21, in Saturday's homecoming game at Memorial Stadium.

Kansas also had a beefed-up security presence, with 19 additional police officers patrolling the track.

"When you see that every game, you get conditioned to it," associate athletic director Jim Marchiony said. "It reduces some of the incentive to run on the field."

Postgame security became a concern last week when a Nebraska player hit a Missouri fan who ran onto Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo., to celebrate the MU's victory over NU.

KU's new posts were ordered before that incident made national news.

"We hope students get the message," Marchiony said. "We hope for their sakes and the players' sakes that they won't run on the field."

Both goal posts were reassembled after the stadium emptied.

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Posted on Thu, Sep. 09, 2004

## Clemson: Automatic goal posts work like a charm

**PETE IACOBELLI**  
Associated Press

**CLEMSON, S.C.** - Amid the celebration that followed Clemson's 37-30 double-overtime win against Wake Forest last Saturday, big Tiger defensive end Mo Fountain turned to watch the goal posts.

He heard the school was the first in the nation to install remote-controlled, hydraulic goal posts at Death Valley and didn't want to miss the show.

Moments after the final whistle, several security people outlined where the posts would lay on the ground and - voila! - they collapsed in seconds just as advertised.

"Wow," Fountain said, "that was something."

And a far cry from the chaos and mob scene that ruled Memorial Stadium in November 2002. After Clemson's 27-20 victory over archrival South Carolina, fans swarmed the field and - like college football fans have done for years after big games - went for the goal posts.

Security officers tried to protect the structures to no avail. An Anderson County reserve deputy Homer Booth found himself at the bottom of a pile with a collarbone and some ribs broken. A female student had a mild concussion. Several other injuries not initially reported were detailed in a task force put together by Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips days after the horrifying scene.

The new goal posts, purchased from a West Virginia company S5 Sports and costing \$50,000, are the latest measure to protect football fans at Clemson games.

"That officer who got hurt, that girl who had the concussion, we knew we couldn't let that continue," Phillips said.

The most effective way to stop such problems is to ban fans from the field entirely. At Clemson, though, there's been a long tradition of fans mingling with players and coaches following games. In the wake of the South Carolina chaos, Phillips went so far as to say Clemson supporters had lost their rights to go on the field before he apologized and backed off the stance.

"Terry Don looked at me and, 'Katie, it ain't going to happen,' and I looked at him and said, 'Terry Don, it ain't going to happen.' Our people want to go on the field," said Katie Hill, Clemson's senior associate athletic director.

Instead, Clemson administrators came up with "Gathering at the Paw," a crowd-control plan to funnel those heading to the field through an entrance furthest away from the locker rooms, then direct them to the Tiger Paw logo on the 50-yard line to sing the alma mater.

Still, when Clemson knocked off No. 3 Florida State 26-10 last November, joyous fans rushed the field and tore down the goal posts within minutes. Officials reported a few minor injuries. "Nothing on the scale of South Carolina," Phillips said.

He knew more precautions were needed. After investigating several types of collapsible systems, Clemson settled on one created by football official James L. Snider. The system cost \$30,000 with another \$20,000 required for the foundations.

Snider, a high school football referee, had demonstrated a half-scale prototype for West Virginia officials last year when he heard Clemson was in the market for a collapsible system. He contacted Gary Wade, assistant athletic director for facilities, and soon had his first contract.

Snider was at Death Valley last Saturday and waited out the overtime like an expectant father. "Everything was culminating in that one event," Snider said by phone. "Everything went great. The goal posts went down on cue and the students didn't even touch them."

As the hydraulic posts collapsed Saturday, fans rushed to the center of the field without so much as a passing glance at the metal structure.

## Clemson: Automatic goal posts work like a charm

Even if fans are intent on carrying off a trophy, Snider says the main system detaches the crossbar and uprights so nothing is torn apart. Such replacement parts cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

"I don't think anyone wants to let fifteen hundred dollars get in the way of someone being injured," Snider said.

Snider says he has had contact from officials at Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech and Ohio State about his system. Georgia Tech representatives told Snider they would watch the goal post system closely when the Yellow Jackets play at Clemson on Saturday night.

"We really believe they were effective and a safe alternative," Phillips said.

Booth, who has not worked a Clemson game since his injury, hopes the measures improve fan safety. He worries that determined, frenzied students who want to make mayhem will continue to do so.

Booth, a barber, says he still has trouble raising his right arm. Mentally, he's gotten past the bad memories of what he describes as a riot. The last thing he remembers from that night was a voice on the radio yelling, "Get the hell out of there."

Booth would like to see Clemson officials ban fans from the field altogether. "They say it's for tradition's sake," he said. "So they're going to keep doing it."

It's going to take time for students and fans to grow accustomed to the new tradition, Phillips said. Also, he says school officials won't ever ease up on making Death Valley as safe an experience as possible. "I believe rushing the goal posts at Clemson is a moot issue," Phillips said.

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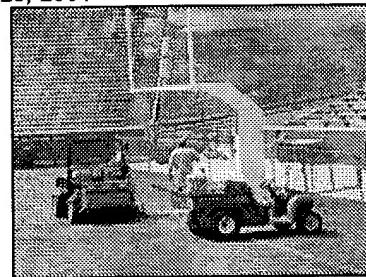
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This Fall, the University may have claim to the most exciting five seconds as well as the most exciting 12 seconds in college football. Appropriately, the 12 second title is owned by Clemson's game opening tradition of running down the Hill, and the five second title may now be claimed by the University's new end-game routine of remotely collapsing the goal posts.



In an interview with The State, associate athletics director, Robert Ricketts, said that the University recently purchased hydraulic posts from S5 Sports of Bridgeport, West Virginia.

In an interview with NCAA News, James Snider, owner of S5 Sports, said he decided to design the new posts after attending a West Virginia football game.

The posts, which are operated with a remote-control, can be collapsed within five to six seconds. As opposed to two other models the University previously considered which had to be manually folded or disassembled down, these new posts will allow the operators to be out of harms way.

Memorial Stadium will be one of the first places in the country to use the new technology.

Ricketts said the posts will not be taken down every game; instead the decision will be made on a game to game basis by athletics director Terry Don Phillips.

The posts will cost the University approximately \$70,000 total. The technology costs \$50,000, and the department will need to spend \$20,000 to prepare the field under the posts.

At approximately \$5,000-a-pair, in the past two years the University has spent roughly \$10,000 replacing the previously torn-down standard-type posts.

Associate Athletic Director Katie Hill previously explained to The Tiger that the University considered the change after the 2002 Carolina Clemson game year.

After the game, fans tore down the goal posts, and, among others, Anderson County deputy Homer Booth was injured. He suffered a broken collarbone and several broken ribs.

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## Posts function with remote control

Caroline Stone  
editor In Chief

Published Friday, August 20, 2004

**DANIEL MCCORD/staff**  
**HIGH TECH:** University officials prepare the field for the new season. The new posts, one of the first of their kind in the country, will not be taken down every game.

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Hill noted that after the incident, a University-wide task force was developed to deal with safety concerns.

Subsequently, officials reduced the number of fans allowed onto the hill, increased the number of security personnel present at games and implemented measures to reduce fans' alcohol consumption.

She said the task force decided not to purchase the collapsible goal posts out of "a hope that we wouldn't need to take it to that level ... that the changes we had made would be sufficient."

Additionally, at the beginning of the 2003 season, officials implemented "Gathering at the Paw." The initiative allowed fans to interact with the coaches and players on the field after the game while the Tiger Band played the Alma Mater.

According to Phillips, "Gathering at the Paw" was intended to "enhance the fan-friendly atmosphere that Clemson is known for."

However, after the Tigers defeated Florida State, Clemson fans failed to simply "gather."

They rushed the field, and in the process of removing the goal posts, several individuals were injured.

Hill pointed out that, while these injuries were "not as severe" as the ones fans incurred at the previous season's Carolina game, the fan safety issues raised at the FSU game helped move officials in the direction of collapsible goal posts.

"Gathering at the Paw" will still be in effect for the 2004 football season.

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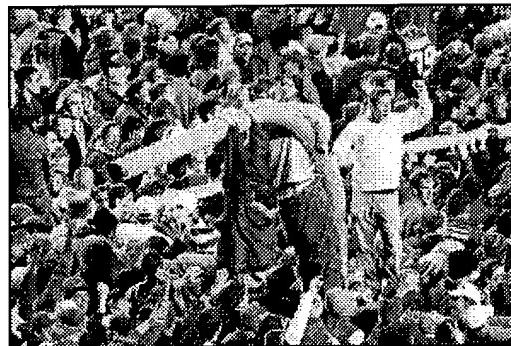
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Published: Jul 20, 2004  
Modified: Jul 20, 2004 7:08 AM

## Posts may fall -- but safely

NCSU installs collapsible goal posts at Carter-Finley



The injuries suffered during the postgame celebration after N.C. State's 17-7 win over FSU in 2002 have led the Wolfpack to install collapsible goal posts at Carter-Finley Stadium.

*Staff Photo by Chuck Liddy*

**By J.P. GIGLIO, Staff Writer**

The goal posts at Carter-Finley Stadium will stay the same this season -- no matter what happens in N.C. State's home football games with Ohio State, Miami and Florida State.

The Wolfpack athletics department has made sure of that with the installation of hydraulic collapsible goal posts.

The days of tearing down goal posts, and the accompanied injuries, are over for Wolfpack fans. The new, safety-conscious goal posts can be collapsed, within minutes, by the push of a button by stadium personnel, instead of a mob of fans.

Fans last tore down the Carter-Finley goal posts after the Wolfpack's 17-7 win over Florida State on Nov. 23, 2002. Three people -- one with a broken leg -- were injured in the postgame celebration.

"We want everyone to have fun and want people to be able to celebrate at our games," N.C. State athletics director Lee Fowler said Monday, "but not at the expense of safety."

In the ACC, Clemson also has added collapsible goal posts, according to an Associated Press report, at a cost of about \$6,000.

"We like to think at N.C. State, we're on the cutting edge," Fowler quipped.

North Carolina will begin the season with the same goal posts from 2003, said Willie Scroggs, a senior associate athletics director. Scroggs said the school has discussed switching to the collapsible variety if the old ones get torn down.

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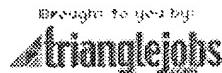
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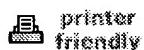


"We have two perfectly good goal posts," Scroggs said. "We don't see the need to change them. Hopefully, we'll be given a chance to address the need for new ones. If that happens, we'd look at the collapsible ones."

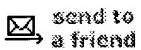
Duke replaced its goal posts when fans tore down the old ones after a 41-17 win over Georgia Tech on Nov. 8.

Duke is exploring using collapsible posts in the future.

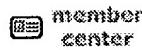
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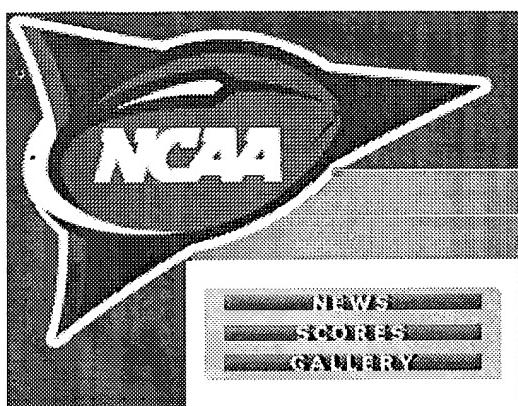


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## Clemson Installing Collapsible Goal Posts

By PETE IACOBELLI  
AP Sports Writer

Jul 20, 2004

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips says Death Valley is on the way to having hydraulic collapsible goal posts in time for its opener with Wake Forest on Sept. 4.

Phillips said by phone Monday that, with less than seven weeks left before the season starts, pre-construction had started at Memorial Stadium for the system.

"I thought I saw them digging troughs" for the goal posts, Phillips said.

The construction is a step at reducing injuries in after-game celebrations, like those that occurred during the Tigers 27-20 victory over South Carolina in November 2002.

"Anything we can do to make sure goal posts don't come down on anyone, we'll do," Phillips said.

Tiger officials traveled to West Virginia to view the collapsible goal posts there, Clemson athletic director Tim Bourret said.

Phillips said the goal post system, which is being overseen by Clemson administrator Katie Hill, will roll in toward the football field with as little effort as pulling a pin and pushing a button.

Phillips said the "premise of these things is to take away the incentive" to tear down goal posts, Idangerous college football tradition.

He was unsure how much the system cost, although Hill had estimated last winter the goal posts about \$6,000 each. "Suffice to say, we wouldn't want to be putting one of those things in every stadium," he said.

The goal post system is the latest safety measure since several injuries came out of the Clemson celebration over the Gamecocks two years ago. Anderson County reserve deputy Homer Booth suffered a collarbone and several ribs in the chaos. Documents from an athletic department task force before the season detailed injuries such as broken arms, knee injuries and repaired teeth as officers tried to keep people from tearing down the goal posts.

Phillips and school administrators came up with a new post-game plan, "Gathering at the Paw," to design to stop frenzied situations. The procedure funnels those who want to come onto the field zone farthest from the locker rooms. People are then guided to the center.

Phillips thought things went fairly well, even during its biggest test last fall — a 26-10 Bowden Bow over Florida State on Nov. 8. Fans leaped over the fences surrounding the field and ran to the goal posts. Both came down within minutes and were paraded out of Death Valley. There were only minor injuries reported, the school said last fall.

Roth asked Wiles why he thought the Miami QB's were having a hard time handling snaps during the game. Wiles simply blamed these occurrences on crowd noise (applause from the audience). He also noted that the crowd noise, while inspiring to the VT defense, was so loud that it really challenged their on-field communications as well. He said that adjustments were sometimes made on the fly by passing the information across the field from one player to the next.

**Wayne in Blacksburg** called to wish Bill Roth a happy birthday and asked Wiles to comment on Pitt's offensive line. Wiles said that Pitt's offensive line was very similar to Miami's. He said they lost their center and right guard from last year, but overall they are very big, athletic and experienced. Wiles said that VT didn't do a good job of getting to Pitt's QB last year, which allowed some completions for big plays. He said that VT would need to get to their QB (Rutherford) in this game and pressure him to move his feet. Roth pointed out that Pitt tight end Chris Wilson is talented and somewhat underrated in the shadow of Larry Fitzgerald. Wiles agreed that Wilson is talented and pointed out that he's the second leading receiver on the team (behind Fitzgerald).

**Billy in Norfolk** called and asked Wiles what VT can do to prepare for Pitt, where the VT fan support will be minimal compared to the Miami game. Wiles joked that maybe the defensive players helmet could be outfitted with headphones playing the sound of VT crowd noise (laughter from the audience). He said that the VT offense will practice in the field house with artificial noise on Thursday, but pointed out that the defense should be able to communicate better while the Pitt fans are quiet during their offensive drives.

He finished by pointing out that the coaches focus on keeping the same preparation routines for the players whether it's a home game or away game. He said it doesn't matter where you play, it's how you prepare mentally. He said the VT players definitely know the importance of this game and are approaching it like it's the Big East championship game. Roth pointed out that VT played well against SU at home, then played poorly in the next game at WVU. He said that VT might face the same hostile atmosphere at Pitt. Wiles agreed but said the team learned from their letdown against WVU and shouldn't let that happen again.

#### **Jim Weaver – Athletic Director**

After a break, Roth introduced Weaver and both discussed the hysterically enthusiastic environment in Lane Stadium for the Miami game. Weaver said he had never heard anything like it in his 37 years of being involved with collegiate athletics. Roth asked Weaver for his thoughts on the post game crowd celebration at Lane Stadium after the Miami game. Weaver said he thought the stadium staff was well prepared and reiterated the need for protection of the goal posts. He said that the goal posts are protected for fan safety reasons, not because the VT administration is worried about them being damaged or carried away. Weaver said he got the idea for the collapsible goal posts from the University of Iowa, who's been using them for over 10 years. He said he's surprised more big stadiums don't have them. Weaver went on to praise the fans for their "orderly celebration" and said that he doesn't have a problem with any actions on the field after the Miami game.

**Jeff in Knoxville** called and asked about the vendors at the Miami game who were selling shirts with profane language printed on them. Jeff specifically asked if they were allowed to be on campus (around the stadium and in the Hokie Club lots) selling these shirts. Weaver admitted that he wasn't sure if they were permitted to be on the campus, but promised he would check on this question first thing Tuesday morning. He said that many of these vendors are just trying to take advantage of the large crowd to make money.